

Application No. 10/620,456
Amendment dated August 10, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 10, 2007

Docket No.: 4444-0120P

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-17 are now present in this application.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended, and claims 9 and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC 103

Claims 1-8, 10-13, 15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kiso et al., U.S. Patent 5,757,809, in view of Wensley et al., U.S. Patent 4,375,683. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kiso et al. in view of Wensley et al., and further in view of Roohparvar, U.S. Patent 7,047,455. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 9 and 18 contain allowable subject matter. Without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, but simply to expedite prosecution of this application, it is noted that limitations from objected-to but allowable claims 9 and 18 have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 10, respectively. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 10, as well as their dependent claims, should now be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning this document are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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